GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1540
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
U.S. MILITARY BASES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND SAARC REGION
BRAHMANAND MANDAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America proposes to set up permanent military bases in Central Asia and SAARC region;

(b) if so, whether India is evolving any new strategy in its national interest in this context;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) The United States deployed military forces in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia for conducting the on-going `Operation Enduring Freedom`, which was launched in October 2001 against the former Taliban regime and the Al-Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan. The United States has also publicly stated that it is not seeking a permanent military presence in these regions.

(b) & (c) The Government is fully alert to all military developments in India`s extended neighbourhood and formulates its policies and approach taking into account the impact of these developments on India`s national security interests.

(d) Does not arise.